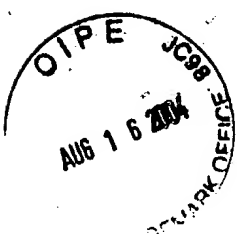


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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 1743
PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 5552.1442**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Ralf OTTO et al.)	Group Art Unit: 1743
)	
Application No.: 09/551,851)	Examiner: B. R. GORDON
)	
Filed: April 18, 2000)	
)	
For: CLOSURE APPLIANCE FOR REAGENT CONTAINER)	Confirmation No.: 1852
)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED
AUG 18 2004
TC 1700**

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed December 17, 2003, the period for response having been extended to June 17, 2004 by a Petition for Extension of Time - Three Months filed on June 16, 2004, and having been further extended to August 16, 2004 by a Notice of Appeal filed June 16, 2004, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants propose that this application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

Remarks follow the amendment sections of this paper.